Page 2

Application No. 10/718,810 Reply dated November 10, 2005

Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-11 and 13-17 are pending. These claims have been rejected. Claims 1 and

16 are independent claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

For the information of the Examiner, an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on

October 27, 2005.

Foreign Priority

The indication that the foreign priority has been received and placed in the file is noted.

Drawings

The indication that the drawings have been accepted is noted.

Reply to Rejections

First Rejection

Claims 1-4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by

Okamoto et al. This rejection is traversed.

In explaining the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the Examiner asserts that at least the

structure in base claim 1 of "the base plate has an inner edge 24 in contact with the inner edge of

the inner panel" is now in Okamoto et al. In stating the rejection, the Examiner asserts that in

Figure 3 there is an element channel 7, which is in contact with the base plate B and the inner

edge of the base plate was identified as element 24. However, element 24 is not a part of the

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP

Page 3

Application No. 10/718,810

Reply dated November 10, 2005

Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2005

base plate. Element 24 is a waterproof packing 24 of the inner panel B. See column 3, lines 48-

50 of the reference.

As each and every limitation of the base claim are not shown, either specifically or

inherently, a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is not viable. Even if it were a possibility or

probability that the reference showed what is claimed, which it does not, a rejection under 35

U.S.C. § 102 cannot be based on a possibility or probability, as explained in Continental Can Co.

U.S.A. Inc. v. Monsanto Co., 20 USPQ2d 1746, 1749 (Fed. Cir. 1991) [cited in the M.P.E.P.],

wherein the Court stated as follows:

Inherency, however, may not be established by probabilities or possibilities. The mere fact that a certain thing may result from a

given set of circumstances is not sufficient.

The dependent claims are considered patentable at least for the same reasons as the base

claim.

For the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the

rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Second Rejection

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9-11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being

anticipated by Sakaguchi et al. This rejection is traversed.

In explaining the rejection, the Examiner asserts that the feature of "the base plate has an

inner edge in contact with the inner edge of the inner panel" is shown in Figure 2. Further, in

explaining the rejection on page 4, the Examiner asserts that "the base plate includes an inner

edge which comprises that portion of the base plate which is bolted to the inner panel. See figure

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP

Page 4

Application No. 10/718,810

Reply dated November 10, 2005

Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2005

3." However, in Figure 3, it is "the front end portion 12b of the door module 12 may be fixed by

using a bolt 53 and the rear end portion 12a of the door module may be fixed to the inner panel

11 using a bolt 54." The Examiner's comments at best are a possibility or probability, which is

not a viable rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. See the case citation in reply to the first rejection.

Supra.

With respect to the rejection of base claim 16, this claim also has the feature that "which

is attached to the inner panel by an inner edge of the base plate." It is submitted that this

structure is not specifically or inherently disclosed in the reference.

The dependent claims are considered patentable at least for the same reasons as their base

or intervening claims.

For the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the

rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Third Rejection

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakaguchi et

al. as applied to claims 1, 5, 6, 9-11 and 13-16, above, and further in view of Baldamus et al.

This rejection is traversed.

The addition of Baldamus et al. does not cure the innate deficiencies of a rejection based

on Sakaguchi et al., even though a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 was used.

For the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the

rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP

Application No. 10/718,810 Reply dated November 10, 2005 Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2005 Docket No.: 0649-0931P Page 5

Reply to Response to Arguments

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner replied to the previous arguments. It is considered that the traverse of the rejections above addresses the Examiner's position.

Page 6

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Elliot A. Goldberg (Reg. No. 33,347) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 10, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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